



March 16, 2012

This Week:

- Transportation jobs bill
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Transportation jobs bill

On Wednesday, [U.S. Sen. Patty Murray announced](#) she has included several amendments in the bipartisan Senate surface transportation reauthorization bill that would boost Washington transportation and job growth. The legislation would double the level of funding authorized for ferry transportation and create a team within the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) at the U.S. Department of Transportation that would consolidate federal ferry activities across FHWA, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and other agencies. This included authorization for ferries to compete for FTA's Clean Fuels grant program, allowing WSF to access federal funding for clean fuel propulsion systems. I am extremely grateful to Sen. Murray and her efforts on behalf of ferry riders and the state of Washington.

Colman dock customers: construction advisories

Columbia Street closures, March 16-17

Today from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Columbia Street, which feeds directly into Alaskan Way at Colman dock, will be closed. It will open from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. for the commute hours and then close again from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. On Saturday, March 17, Columbia Street will close from 8 p.m. until 5 a.m. Sunday morning. It is advised to approach the terminal via Madison Street during these hours.

Marion Street nightly closures, March 18-21

Starting Sunday, March 18, through Wednesday, March 21, Marion Street will be closed from Alaskan Way South to Western Avenue nightly, 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. The road under the Viaduct from Columbia to Marion and Marion to Madison will also be closed.

Construction on Alaskan Way, March 19-April 13

Beginning Monday, March 19 through Friday, April 13, WSDOT will close one northbound and one southbound lane on Alaskan Way South between Yesler and Union streets from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Crews are working to expand lanes on this roadway in preparation for the next phase of Alaskan Way Viaduct (AWV) Project work which will begin in late spring. Customers should expect delays near Colman Dock during these weekday hours and allow for extra travel time to and from the terminal.

To follow construction progress, visit the [AWV replacement program website](#). WSF is working closely with our project partners to minimize the impacts of AWV construction-related detours and closures.

Proposed changes in support of vehicle reservations system

WSF is proposing changes to the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) regarding preferential loading that would affect routes that currently offer vehicle reservations. [Read about our proposed changes](#), then send your comments to wsfplanning@wsdot.wa.gov. The Washington State Transportation Commission

is also proposing changes to the WAC to eliminate the additional commercial reservation fee in the San Juan Islands in support of the new reservation system. [Read about the Commission's proposed changes](#), then send your comments to transc@wstc.wa.gov.

Vehicle Reservations System Community Partnership Meeting

On Tuesday, we met with the Port Townsend/Coupeville Vehicle Reservations System (VRS) Community Partnership. The Partnership is composed of customers and community leaders. We discussed usability testing and provided a brief system demonstration. [Read more about VRS and download meeting materials.](#)

Colman dock project briefing

King County Councilmember Joe McDermott and I were asked to speak to a West Seattle community group on Wednesday night regarding the [Colman dock project](#). I provided an overview of the preservation needs (to replace the aging and seismically vulnerable structures) and stated that any plans developed would not preclude a future passenger-only ferry service from operating at Colman dock. I appreciated the opportunity to speak and answer questions about WSF and the project.

Way to go: Captain Timothy Koivu and crew members Mark Sauve and Carol Enfield

I received the following compliment from customers of the Edmonds/Kingston route. I want to give a heartfelt thanks to the Puyallup crew and specifically WSF Captain Timothy Koivu, and Ordinary Seamen Mark Sauve and Carol Enfield for going above and beyond the call of duty to help a passenger.

My daughter-in-law and I took the ferry from Edmonds to Kingston @ 12:05, roundtrip. I want to highlight, compliment and thank two exceptional employees who extended courtesy and compassion to us, beyond any expectations or employee requirements - Mark and Carol were their names - plus an understanding Captain of the vessel. Mark and Carol greeted us as we boarded. I asked for an exception to policy with permission to remain onboard when we reached Kingston. My daughter-in-law had surgery a week ago. This was a chance for her to have some fresh air, a view from the water, and a break from resting in bed. She tires easily and I feared exiting, waiting, and reboarding might wear her out. Not only did Mark confirm with the Captain that we could remain on board, he sought us out on the deck, brought Terri a cold container of chocolate milk and a cookie! There's probably nothing I could have done that would have made her feel more protected and comforted than that crewmember reaching out to her and saying..."everybody can use some chocolate milk and cookies!" She was so touched. Then Carol joined us for a few precious moments on the return trip...She shared a hug w/Terri as we disembarked.

Next Week:

- Fuel hedging meeting
- Security system review
- Central waterfront design oversight committee

David Moseley's weekly updates are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly.

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